

PROVINCIAL NEWSLETTER



管区ニュース

June 14, 2017

Visitors from Canada

On May 27th, we had four visitors from Canada who wanted to pay respect especially to the late Sr. Kate McFarlane (1902-1944) buried in our cemetery. Sr. McFarlane came to Japan in 1932 and taught English and also served as Mistress of Discipline in the Boarding School. During World War II she was interned in Kobe because of her nationality. While at the camp she became sick and was released on April 15, 1944. She returned to Obayashi where Rev. Mother Mary Sheldon welcomed her back but she died on Nov. 21 that year, at the age of 42. Sr. Regina McKenna wrote in the letter dated Sept. 12, 1945: "Her death proved an immense sorrow to us all. She was so bright and full of fun. The children loved her."



Sr. McFarlane was the elder sister of the grandmother of Mrs. Frances Qadri who visited Obayashi this time. The family used to hear from the grandmother about the Sister who had been sent to the Mission in Japan. They had always wanted to visit the tomb. After a search with the help of the USC Province, they discovered that the cemetery is located in Obayashi. It was November last year that we received an email request to visit the cemetery. Finally their trip was materialized on a fine day in May this year.



Internment camp in Kobe

Mrs. Frances Qadri and her younger sister Rosalind with their respective husbands arrived. Praying at the grave, they shed tears and we, too, could share their feelings. As a missionary who gave up her life for Japan more than 70 years ago, Sr. Kate must have smiled at them from heaven. Although the visitors could stay only for 2 and a half hours at Obayashi, our encounter was a rich one. We felt that it was truly Sr. Kate who brought us together.



I haven't made a sufficient study about those buried in our cemetery. This time, because of the visitors, I could learn about Sr. Kate McFarlane and her life. I would like to know more about other Sisters buried here in Obayashi and share the information with the pupils and students in our school. We truly need the prayers and intercessions of those in Heaven. (Kaoru Fujimatsu)